

THE  
MONTHLY



GULL  
BULLETIN

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### NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER

There will be no regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society in August. The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 12, in San Francisco, and details will appear in the September *Gull*.

### FIELD TRIPS FOR AUGUST

On Saturday and Sunday, **August 10 and 11**, Lake Van Norden, Sugar Bowl and Boca Reservoir. The Sugar Bowl area offers many interesting spots for nature study. Several of these will be visited on Saturday. Boca Reservoir, a habitat for desert and water birds, will be visited on Sunday. Sage thrashers, vesper, black-throated and Brewer's sparrows were seen on previous trips. Meet at the eastern tip of Lake Van Norden at 10 a. m. on Saturday. This point can be reached by turning off Highway 40 at Soda Springs. After assembling, the group will go to the Sugar Bowl Lodge and other points of interest. Because of limited parking space at the lodge, it was not chosen as a meeting place. The best camp sites are at Donner Memorial Park east of the summit. Leadership will be available for a proposed dry camp east of Boca Reservoir on Saturday night. There are no designated camp sites or sanitary facilities. Bring your own water supply. Immediately before and after sunrise is ideal for birding in the desert. Those not camping in the desert meet on Sunday at 9 a. m. at the eastern end of the Boca Reservoir Dam. The distance to Lake Van Norden from the Bay Area is about 200 miles and driving time 5 hours. Leader, Guy McCaskie, P.O. Box 241, Tahoe City, Calif.

On Tuesday, **August 20**, to San Francisco Zoo and Merced Lake. Meet at north entrance to Fleishhacker Zoo, on Sloat Blvd., at 10 a. m. A circuit of Lake Merced may be made to see a variety of water birds and possibly some early migrants. Marsh wren, sora rail and warblers in migration are likely to be seen. Bring lunch and interested friends. Leader, Mrs. Valeria DaCosta WE 1-5257.

On Sunday, **August 25**, to Rodeo Lagoon in Marin County for the fall migration of water birds. This area, with its brackish lagoons separated from ocean by a sand bar, is a haven for many birds passing through. Those who like to walk the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the entrance to Fort Barry and Fort Cronkite to the ocean, may see such species as the Allen's hummingbird, several species of swallows, hawks, towhees, sparrows and warblers. Meet at the parking area just north of the Golden Gate Bridge at 9 a. m. Leader, Elizabeth Lennon, EDgewater 2-1641.

On Saturday and Sunday, **September 7 and 8**, to Moss Landing and Monterey overnight. On Saturday take U.S. 101 south to the Monterey Peninsula cutoff (Route 156) 9 miles north of Salinas. Turn west to Castroville, then north (right) on Route 1 for 3 miles. Meet at 9 a. m. near the bridge over Elkhorn Slough. Distance from the Bay Area is 110 miles. Driving time is 3 hours. This spot offers beach, ocean, lagoon, pond, marsh and open grassland habitat all in one package. At this time the migration of loon, grebe, albatross, fulmar, shearwater, and petrel takes place. After lunch go to the Coast Guard pier in Monterey where we will assemble at 2 p. m. A tour will be made of the wharves, where may be seen: kittiwake, oyster catcher, petrel and turnstone. A side trip to the mouth of the Carmel River for Baird's and possibly, pectoral sandpiper will be made at the close of the day.

On Sunday, at 9 a. m. depart from Sam's Wharf on a party boat for a trip off Monterey coast. Allow one-half hour for parking car at the Municipal Parking Lot, traveling to Sam's Wharf, and boarding boat. Return will be at 3 p. m. Be sure to wear warm clothing, bring lunch and seasick pills. This trip will be at the time of heavy migration of ocean birds that travel on a route fairly close to the Monterey area. Black-footed albatross, sooty and pink-footed shearwater, fork-tailed, black and ashy petrel were present last year. Fare: \$4.50 per person. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. and send to Harold G. Peterson, 3548 65th Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94605. Names will be placed on the passenger list in the order received. Space is limited. Co-leaders, Richard Stallcup LO 9-3185 and Guy McCaskie, P.O. Box 241, Tahoe City, Calif.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*.

#### **A BEQUEST OF \$5,000**

Members of Golden Gate Audubon Society will be surprised—and much pleased, naturally, to learn that on her death on June 13 Mrs. Josephine Kimball Knowles left the Golden Gate Audubon Society a bequest of \$5,000. Mrs. Knowles, a resident of Berkeley and 83 years old at the time of her death, was never a member of our Society, but certainly she must have felt very kindly disposed towards us. A number of other educational, religious and charitable organizations were also mentioned in Mrs. Knowles' will. It will probably take a year and a half to two years to settle the estate, which is being valued in excess of \$500,000.

—ERLINE HEVEL, *President*.

#### **GIFTS TO CANYON RANCH**

Troop No. 326 of the Boy Scouts of America recently contributed to the Audubon Canyon Ranch fund in honor of Dr. Albert Boles.

Rae Abrahamson made a contribution to Audubon Canyon Ranch as a birthday gift to Patricia Sullivan.

#### **SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS**

The following gifts of remembrance were made to the Sanctuary, Memorial and Canyon Ranch Fund:

*In Memory of*  
Mrs. Nellie Raynor  
James G. Molakides

*Gift of*  
Carl H. Fox  
Dr. Albert Boles

Captain Edward D. Washburn  
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 Florence Locke  
 Tom and Agnes Oczkewecz

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman.*

### HAVE YOU MADE YOUR 1963 CONTRIBUTION TO CANYON RANCH?

As of July 10 we have banked a total of .....\$ 30,382<sup>24</sup>  
 We are still short of our goal ..... 216,618

Contributions (tax deductible, of course) may be mailed to Canyon Ranch Fund, Golden Gate Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2113, San Francisco 26, California.

### PESTICIDES—WATER POLLUTION—BALD EAGLES

Progress on pesticides legislation in Congress—or should we say lack of progress—is headlined in our last two issues of the *Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide*. Miss Rachel Carson was among experts called to testify in Senate hearings on bills sponsored by Sen. Maurine Neuberger and Rep. John D. Dingell. The President's Science Advisory Committee turned in a significant report on their findings, emphasizing that health hazards from pesticides are potentially greater than atomic fallout. However, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture asked for delay in passage of the Dingell Bill which would step up research by the Fish and Wildlife Service and require labels to carry warnings of wildlife hazards. Sen. Clair Engle and Rep. William S. Mailliard are two California Congressmen serving on committees handling the above legislation.

Water pollution hearings have also been held in Washington, and there is a strong movement to transfer pollution control from the U. S. Public Health Service to the Dept. of Interior, prompted by asserted laxity in enforcement of pollution clean-ups under the present set-up. Sen. Gaylord Nelson and Rep. Henry S. Reuss have introduced legislation that would compel detergent manufacturers to change over by 1965 to detergent products which would more easily decompose and thus reduce the present "hard detergent" foam pollution of our public waters. There will be hearings on this. Similar controls are already in force in Europe.

"The Bald Eagle—Going—Going" is the title of a brief item in the June 15th issue of *Conservation News* from the National Wildlife Federation. It is stated that 45 bald eagles have been found dead or dying across the United States in recent months, and that all but one showed DDT in their tissues, while nest production continued to drop. We await impatiently further findings from our National Audubon Society's eagle studies.

—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Ber-



keley, Professor and Mrs. William R. Dennes, Mr. Leo Ellis, Mrs. Margaret F. Kays, Miss Marian Mel, Mr. Wellman Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Plummer, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sauer; from Castro Valley, Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Delfino; from Danville, Mr. John S. Hartwell; from Hayward, Miss Lois M. Bastian; from Los Altos, Mr. Oliver I. Allen; from Oakland, Mrs. Bette I. Roberts; from Orinda, Mrs. Phylis Simon; from Piedmont, Mrs. William Doub; from San Francisco, Miss Margaret Estop, Mrs. H. Rowan Gaither, Jr., Miss Frances Kidney; from Vallejo, Dr. Herbert L. Joseph; from Walnut Creek, Mr. and Mrs. Norman A. Browne.

VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Membership Chairman.*

### LAKE MERRITT REFUGE NAMED U. S. LANDMARK

When Golden Gate Audubon Society returns to the Rotary Natural Science Center at Lake Merritt in Oakland for the October meeting, we shall be in an officially-designated National Historic Landmark. The Lake Merritt Waterfowl Refuge was recently named a National Historic Landmark by Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall—the only Northern California site of 23 so designated.

The Lake Merritt Refuge was recognized as possessing exceptional value as the oldest legally established public wildlife sanctuary in the United States. It was established in 1870 as a State Game Refuge, and it will display a bronze marker indicating it is a registered National Historic Landmark.

### CONDOR REFUGE TRIP, MAY 30-JUNE 2

A caravan of 15 cars containing some 30 Bay Region Audubonites and guests filed out of Fillmore and up the long, sometimes precipitous Sespe Canyon road on Friday, May 31. Our friendly Forest Service had just scraped this road, so in spite of brief thrills when we dipped through the creek fords, we got this caravan of many makes and models into Cow Springs Camp without serious incidents. Right after lunch eager birders drove or hiked back to the high ridge between this camp and Squaw Flat and within minutes had sighted four condors. The exclamations and looks of rapture this writer will never forget—and these were his first wild condors too. Later Harry and Betty Adamson led a party off to the northeast of Cow Springs and saw several other condors. But the next day we scanned the nesting cliffs east of Squaw Flat and failed to see another bird. Even turkey vultures and all raptors were strangely few.

The chaparral which was in full, fragrant bloom coming up Sespe was mostly just budding at our higher campsite, but there were many spring wildflowers. Mountain quail called from all sides, while thrashers and other typical chaparral dwellers added their voices. Our younger, far-ranging bird scouts joined with some veteran birders to find the blue-gray gnatcatcher, canyon wren, sage and black-chinned sparrow, and Lawrence's goldfinch. Black-headed grosbeaks, robins, pewees, and ash-throated flycatchers were all based in willows near camp.

En route down Highway 399, an overnight at Pine Mountain Camp (USFS) yielded us poorwills and white-throated swifts and bank swallows in the nearby sandstone cliffs. Another overnight in returning was spent

near the 8,000 ft. level on Mt. Pinos, where spring was just breaking and many Canadian Zone birds were in song. A pair of golden eagles soared over Fraser Park pastures as we swung back over to Highway 99 and our route home.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Leader* and PAUL F. COVEL, *Historian*.

### MT. DIABLO, NAPA VALLEY, AND OAKLAND TRIPS

MT. DIABLO, May 4—About 50 observers came out on a miserable day, made worse by the chill cloud we went up into at Juniper Camp. The maul oaks were impressive, but a far more unusual sight, a sloping acre of yellow wallflowers, was hardly seen in the mist. Shrubby yellow asters (*Stenotopsis*) were conspicuous everywhere. A sprinkling of fine flowers was found on the Pioneer Camp road and on the trail starting down from Rock City. The mints, chia, pitcher sage, and black sage were of special interest, but they were just starting to bloom, except for the black sage below the checking station. The pea family, with several species of lupine, clover, and lotus, made as good a showing as the much larger family of composites. Total flowers seen were about 80 species in 61 genera and 26 families. Unusual bird observations were about 300 American goldfinches in one flock, and a golden eagle (followed by a vulture for size comparison), which passed close above two cars as they descended the mountain.

—MARSHALL JENCKS, *Leader & Historian*.

NAPA VALLEY, May 21—Although the day was overcast, the 16 persons who made the trip thoroughly enjoyed it. Co-Leader Mrs. Merrel Ackley had lined up enough flowers for two days, and had a permit to go up a canyon to see boschniakias and an invitation to visit a friend's garden on the top of Howell Mountain, where we had an almost 360-degree panorama of valleys and ridges, and many wildflowers to look at too. Here she showed us broom-rape to complete our acquaintance with the whole parastic broom-rape family, whose other member, beautiful boshniakia, resembles the Sierra snow-plant, though it is very differently colored. At Paradise Park, we saw Western tanagers and house wrens, and in one of the canyons we listened to a hermit thrush. Among the less familiar flowers were whipplea, tree poppy, pea chaparral, milkwort, and rush-rose.

—MARSHALL JENCKS and MRS. MERREL ACKLEY, *Co-Leaders*.

QUARRY WALK, Oakland, June 6 (and June 20)—Two weeks later than the official walk, a larger party found the same number of species of birds (35), but only 88 species of flowers instead of 108 (grasses excluded). This suggests that in an ordinary year, when the season is not late, the high tide of bloom is some time in May. Three of the new flowers not seen on June 6, were the yellow mariposa, Indian pink, and pennyroyal—all very beautiful. Among the birds were the white-throated swift, violet-green swallow, olive-sided and ash-throated flycatchers. California thrasher, Swainson's thrush, warbling vireo, and black-headed grosbeak. It will be a great pity if this small close-in area is lost to those who love nature. I am a bit encouraged, however, to find on the map in about this location a long strip of land 200 feet wide, probably centered on the bottom of the canyon, which is called York Trail Park and is owned by the city of Oakland.

—MARSHALL JENCKS, *Leader & Historian*.

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.**

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1943

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$1.50 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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